

R' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

R'' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

both R' and R'' are nonterminally attached to L and at least one of R' and R'' is C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

R''' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; and

A is aryl

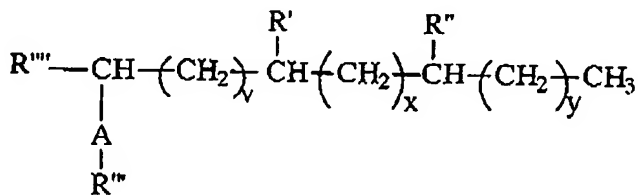
wherein:

said alkylaryl composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to L;

in at least about 60% of said alkylaryl composition, A is attached to L in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof; and

wherein further said alkylaryl composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in L of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present.

7-17 (amended). An alkylaryl composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises at least two isomers, counted exclusive of ortho-, meta-, para-, and stereoisomers, of an alkylaryl of the formula:



wherein A is aryl; R''' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; R' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; R'' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; and R'''' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₄ alkyl; v is an integer from 0 to 10; x is an integer from 0 to 10; y is an integer from 0 to 10;

wherein:

the total number of carbon atoms attached to A is less than about 20;

said alkylaryl composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to the moiety

$R''''-C(-)H(CH_2)_vC(-)H(CH_2)_xC(-)H(CH_2)_y-CH_3$ of this formula;

at least one of R' and R'' is C₁ to C₃ alkyl; when R'''' is C₁, the sum of v + x + y is at least 1; and when R'''' is H, the sum of v + x + y is at least 2; and

in at least about 60% of said alkylaryl composition, A is attached to the moiety

$R''''-C(-)H(CH_2)_vC(-)H(CH_2)_xC(-)H(CH_2)_y-CH_3$ in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof;

wherein further said alkylaryl composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in the moiety

$R''''-C(-)H(CH_2)_vC(-)H(CH_2)_xC(-)H(CH_2)_y-CH_3$

of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present.

15-26. (amended) An alkylaryl composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises:

a) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of an alkylaryl composition comprising at least two isomers of an alkylaryl of the formula:

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wherein:

L is an acyclic aliphatic hydrocarbyl of from 6 to 18 carbon atoms in total;

R' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

R'' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

both R' and R'' are nonterminally attached to L and at least one of R' and R'' is C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

R''' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; and

A is aryl

wherein:

said alkylaryl composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to L;

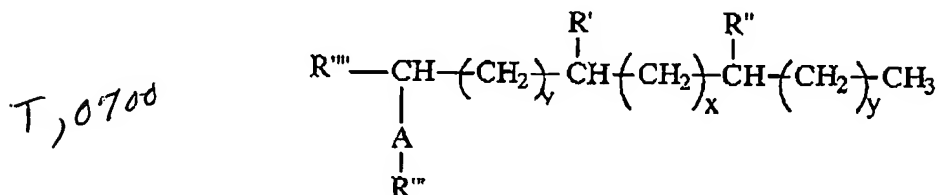
in at least about 60% of said alkylaryl composition, A is attached to L in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof; and

wherein further said alkylaryl composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in L of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present; and

b) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of at least one isomer of the linear analog of said alkylaryl (a).

82 34. (amended) An alkylaryl composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises:

a) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of an alkylaryl composition comprising at least two isomers, counted exclusive of ortho-, meta-, para- and stereoisomers, of an alkylaryl of the formula:



wherein A is aryl; R''' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; R' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; R'' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; and R''' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₄ alkyl; v is an integer from 0 to 10; x is an integer from 0 to 10; y is an integer from 0 to 10;

wherein:

the total number of carbon atoms attached to A is less than about 20;

said alkylaryl composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH₂)_vC(-)H(CH₂)_xC(-)H(CH₂)_y-CH₃ of this formula;

at least one of R' and R'' is C₁ to C₃ alkyl; when R''' is C₁, the sum of v + x + y is at least 1; and when R''' is H, the sum of v + x + y is at least 2; and

in at least about 60% of said alkylaryl composition, A is attached to the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH₂)_vC(-)H(CH₂)_xC(-)H(CH₂)_y-CH₃ in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof;

wherein further said alkylaryl composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH₂)_vC(-)H(CH₂)_xC(-)H(CH₂)_y-CH₃